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26 October 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 26 October 1960

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Gen. Cabell, Mr. Douglas, Dr. FitzGerald,

Mr. Gray, Mr. Hare, Mr. Scribner, Mr. Smith

1. Report on "U.S. Prestige"

Mr. Alien distributed copies of a letter he had dispatched to Senator Fulbright in which he had declined to provide the latter with a copy of the much-publicized USIA report on the status of U.S. prestige abroad. This was discussed briefly by the Board.

2. SAMOS

The Board talked at some length about the misunderstanding with respect to the OCB minutes reflecting discussions over the past few weeks on the subject of the handling of publicity on the SAMOS shots. Mr. Douglas stated that the confusion arose in some measure from Defense's understanding that there was to be no difference in the handling of a successful shot from one which was launched but did not go into orbit. Therefore, Defense went ahead and released previously-prepared data, whereas many of the other members of the Board apparently thought this was not the agreed procedure. In any case, all members agreed that an absolute minimum of comment should be made which might point to the high quality product expected from SAMOS.

3. Horse Sickness

The epidemic of horse sickness in Southern, Eastern, and Central Africa was discussed. It was agreed that this is potentially a very serious situation and that Dr. Cushing, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health and Medical) should meet with representatives from State and ICA to study the situation and make recommendations for possible U.S. /action.

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4. West Indies Bases

Mr. Hare reported that representatives of the State Department are proceeding to London in the very near future to discuss the status of negotiations regarding U.S. base rights in the West Indies. He said that a report will be made to the Board next week.

5. Debris from U.S. Rocket

The Board noted that a piece of the U.S. moon rocket was discovered in the Union of South Africa, despite the belief that such debris would burn up upon entering the atmosphere. Mr. Hare said that a note of explanation is being prepared for dispatch to the government of South Africa.

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C. P. CABELL General, USAF Acting Director

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